

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 10 and add Claims 13 and 14 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus that forms an image by ejecting ink from a print head, in which a plurality of ejecting portion rows are arranged, to a print medium, each of the ejecting portion rows having a plurality of ejecting portions arranged therein, the apparatus comprising:

a carriage that scans the print head;

preliminary ejecting means for ejecting the ink from the ejecting portions in the print head such that the ejection is not involved in formation of the image; and

a preliminary ejection receiver enabling to receive the ink ejected from the plurality of ejection portion rows by said preliminary ejecting means while said carriage is not performing a scanning operation,

wherein the ejecting portion rows are arranged in a scanning direction of the carriage, the ejecting portions are arranged in each row in a direction transverse to the scanning direction, said preliminary ejecting means sequentially selects one of the plurality of ejecting portion rows as an ejecting portion row on which an ejecting operation is performed, while said carriage is not performing the scanning operation in a state in which the plurality of ejecting portion rows are stopped at a position opposite to said preliminary ejection receiver, every time a preliminary ejection is completed by the selected ejecting portion row, another ejecting portion row is selected to perform the preliminary ejection,

and in the each preliminary ejection for the each selected ejecting portion row, the ejection, which is not involved in formation of the image, is carried out for all the ejecting portions arranged in the selected ejecting portion row.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of ejecting portion rows are provided for respective colors of ejected inks.

Claims 7 and 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Previously presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the ejecting portions use thermal energy to cause ink to generate bubbles, a pressure of which causes ink to be ejected as droplets.

10. (Currently Amended) A preliminary ejecting method executed using an ink jet printing apparatus that forms an image by ejecting ink from a print head, in which a plurality of ejecting portion rows are arranged, to a print medium, each of the ejecting portion rows having a plurality of ejecting portions arranged therein, the ink being ejected from the ejecting portions in the print head to a preliminary ejection receiver such

that the ejection is not involved in formation of the image, the print head being mounted on a carriage for conveying the print head, the method comprising:

a step of sequentially selecting one of the plurality of ejecting portion rows as an ejecting portion row on which an ejecting operation is performed and then subjecting the selected ejecting portion row to preliminary ejection, wherein in the each preliminary ejection for the each selected ejecting portion row, the plurality of ejecting portion rows are stopped at a position opposite to the preliminary ejection receiver, and the ejection, which is not involved in formation of the image, is carried out for all the ejecting portions arranged in the selected ejecting portion row; and

a step of, every time a preliminary ejection is completed by the selected ejecting portion row, selecting another ejecting portion row to perform the preliminary ejection,

wherein the ejecting portion rows are arranged in a scanning direction of the carriage and the ejecting portions are arranged in each row in a direction transverse to the scanning direction.

Claims 11 and 12 (Canceled).

13. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus that forms an image by ejecting ink from a print head, in which a plurality of ejecting portion rows are arranged, to a print medium, each of the ejecting portion rows having a plurality of ejecting portions arranged

therein, the plurality of ejecting portion rows being provided for respective colors of ejected inks, the apparatus comprising:

a carriage that scans the print head;

preliminary ejecting means for ejecting the ink from the ejecting portions in the print head such that the ejection is not involved in formation of the image; and

a preliminary ejection receiver enabling to receive the ink ejected from the plurality of ejecting portion rows by the preliminary ejecting means while said carriage is not performing a scanning operation,

wherein the ejecting portion rows are arranged in a scanning direction of the carriage, the ejecting portions are arranged in each row in a direction transverse to the scanning direction, said preliminary ejecting means sequentially selects one of the plurality of ejecting portion rows as an ejecting portion row on which an ejecting operation is performed, while said carriage is not performing the scanning operation in a state in which the plurality of ejecting portion rows are stopped at a position opposite to said preliminary ejection receiver, every time a preliminary ejection is completed from the selected ejecting portion row, another ejecting portion row is selected to perform the preliminary ejection, and in the preliminary ejection for the selected ejecting portion row, the ejection, which is not involved in formation of the image, is carried out for all the ejecting portions arranged in the selected ejecting portion row.

14. (New) A preliminary ejecting method executed using an ink jet printing apparatus that forms an image by ejecting ink from a print head, in which a plurality of ejecting portion rows are arranged, to a print medium, each of the ejecting portion rows having a plurality of ejecting portions arranged therein, the plurality of ejecting portion rows being provided for respective colors of ejected inks, the ink being ejected from the ejecting portions in the print head to a preliminary ejection receiver such that the ejection is not involved in formation of the image, the print head being mounted on a carriage for conveying the print head, the method comprising:

a step of sequentially selecting one of the plurality of ejecting portion rows as an ejecting portion row on which an ejecting operation is performed and then subjecting the selected ejecting portion row to preliminary ejection, wherein in the preliminary ejection for the selected ejecting portion row, the plurality of ejecting portion rows are stopped at a position opposite to the preliminary ejection receiver, and the ejection, which is not involved in formation of the image, is carried out for all the ejecting portions arranged in the selected ejecting portion row; and

a step of, every time a preliminary ejection is completed by the selected ejecting portion row, selecting another ejecting portion row to perform the preliminary ejection,

wherein the ejecting portion rows are arranged in a scanning direction of the carriage and the ejecting portions are arranged in each row in a direction transverse to the scanning direction.